



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Explore Gaithersburg during Montgomery County Heritage Days

Gaithersburg, MD – (June 7, 2019) The Gaithersburg Community Museum and Observatory Park are among the many historical sites participating in Montgomery County Heritage Days, June 29 and 30, 2019. The annual event celebrates and showcases the County's rich history, culture and natural beauty with activities, exhibits, demonstrations, and live music and performances for all ages. Explore all countywide events [here](#). **All Heritage Days events are free.**

The following is taking place in Gaithersburg:

Gaithersburg Community Museum, 9 South Summit Avenue Saturday, June 29, Noon – 4 p.m.

The [Community Museum](#) will be open with fun activities and vintage-style toys and games in the Museum and Olde Towne Plaza. Due to expected heavy traffic with SummerFest taking place at Bohrer Park, we recommend visiting the Museum before 3 p.m.

Housed in the 1884 Freight House, the Community Museum is part of the rail complex in Olde Towne Gaithersburg. Explore a caboose and RDC rail car, take a photo with the 1918 steam locomotive, shop for train-related items in the gift shop, and discover the hands-on learning centers in the Museum. You might even catch the sights and sounds of the actual CSX and Amtrak trains that rumble by frequently. Free parking is available in the nearby public [garage](#) on Olde Towne Avenue.

Observatory Park, 100 DeSellum Avenue Sunday, June 30, Noon – 4 p.m.

Skywatching – Latitude Observatory Turns 120

Gaithersburg's [International Latitude Observatory](#) turns 120! Celebrate with activities related to the geodetic science that was conducted at the Observatory and enjoy a special birthday cake at 1 p.m. Participate in tours of the Park and Observatory at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. and take part in hands-on activities and more. The National Geodetic Survey (part of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the agency that first had oversight of the Observatory) will be on site with educational displays and hands-on activities.

** Field parking at St. Martin's is not available during this event. Parking is available in Olde Towne and at the Activity Center (about ¼ mile away). Please be considerate of street parking within the neighborhood.*

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Built by Edwin Smith for the International Geodetic Association in 1899 as one of six around the globe, the Observatory played an important role in the efforts of scientists to determine the wobble of the Earth on its polar axis to aid in navigation. Ground markers are still used for GPS purposes today. Self-guided tours of this interpretive park and national historic landmark are available year round. Please note that the park has no restroom facilities.

For more information call 301-258-6160 or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GaithersburgCommunityMuseum and Instagram at www.instagram.com/gburgcommunitymuseum.

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